

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-11

ARAE-00 ( ISO ) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4652

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADERS STRATEGY FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED MILITARY  
COUP

1. SUMMARY. DURING FEBRUARY 26 DISCUSSION CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER EXPRESSED TO LABATT HIS BELIEF THAT MILITARY COUP WILL OCCUR, "WITHOUT QUESTION," BETWEEN MARCH 3 AND MARCH 15. SOURCE IS MAJOR FIGURE AMONG THOSE LABOR LEADERS WHO ARE PLANNING STRATEGY FOR FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL SURVIVAL FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED MILITARY TAKEOVER. HE OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR HILL'S REPRESENTATIONS TO NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS RESPECT FOR INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY OF LABOR MOVEMENT WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR FUTURE OF ARGENTINA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING REPORT COVERS SALIENT POINTS FEBRUARY 26 DISCUSSION LABATT HELD WITH CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER CONCERNING LABOR'S PROPOSED REACTION TO MILITARY TAKEOVER OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH SOURCE SAID WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY OCCUR DURING MARCH 3-15 TIMEFRAME. ALTHOUGH HIS OBSERVATIONS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE CONCLUSIVE VIS-A-VIS MILITARY INTENTIONS, THEY ARE BELIEVED TO REPRESENT ACCURATELY THE THINKING OF LARGE AND IMPORTANT SECTOR WITHIN CGT. SOURCE IS  
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SAME ONE WHO SIGNALLED TO EMBASSY LABOR'S INTENT TO

FORCE OUSTER OF LOPEZ REGA EVEN IF IT MEEANT MRS. PERON WOULD LEAVE WITH HIM DURING JULY 1975 CONFRONTATION (BA-4498).

3. AFTER FULL DISCUSSION CURRENT POLITICAL/LABOR SITUATION, SOURCE SAID HE HAD HELD MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH SEVERAL CGT AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS TO FURTHER REFINE STRATEGY FOLLOWING MILITARY COUP WHICH THEY ARE CONVINCED WILL OCCUR PRIOR TO MARCH 15. HE THEN GAVE LABATT COPY OF MEMORANDUM WHICH HAD SERVED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, AND WHICH HE SAID WAS CONCURRED IN BY ASSEMBLED LABOR LEADERS. MAJOR POINTS WERE: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS COULD BRING ABOUT OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT; THE RUPTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER COULD BRING ABOUT IRREPARABLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LABOR AND MILITARY, OR COULD MEAN BEGINNING OF REAL, INDEPTH AGREEMENT ON COUNTRY'S FUTURE; A PERSECUTING, HOSTILE ATTITUDE BY MILITARY WOULD OBLIGE LABOR LEADERS TO RESPOND IN SAME MANNER, USING ALL INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES AVAILABLE; SHOULD MILITARY INTERVENE UNIONS, IT WOULD SERVE INTERESTS OF COMMUNISTS WHO WOULD IMMEDIATELY FORM PARALLEL UNIONS; IF MILITARY RESPECTED LABOR MOVEMENT, AND WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH IT, FULL AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON NEEDED CHANGES, INCLUDING CHANGES OF LABOR LEADERS AND SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN LEGAL GUARANTEES, BOTH LABOR AND NON-LABOR. MEMORANDUM THEN POINTED OUT PROBLEMS OTHER COUNTRIES (SPAIN, GREECE, CHILE, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY) HAD FACED FOR FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH "IMPORTANT SOCIAL SECTORS," AND SUGGESTED THAT LABOR LEADERS WHO HELD INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION POSITIONS (SEVERAL WERE LISTED) BE PREPARED TO PRESENT "REALISTIC PICTURE" OF WHAT HAPPENS IN ARGENTINA.

4. SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT EXILE OF "MOST BLATANTLY CORRUPT" LABOR LEADERS AND WOULD BE WILLING TO SUSPEND SOME ECONOMIC BENEFITS LEGALLY DUE WORKERS "IN INTEREST OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY." HE THEN SAID THAT AMBASSADOR HILL WOULD PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE FOLLOWING COUP AS MILITARY UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD CALL ON HIM FOR GUIDANCE. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AMBASSADOR'S GOOD OFFICES TO SEE THAT MILITARY WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH CONCERNED LABOR LEADERS IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEFALLEN CHILE, ETC. ALTHOUGH LABATT ADVISED SOURCE THAT NEITHER

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AMBASSADOR NOR US GOVERNMENT WAS IN ANY WAY BECOMING INVOLVED IN INTERNAL ARGENTINE AFFAIRS, HE REPLIED THAT LABOR LEADERS WERE CONVINCED THAT MILITARY WOULD RAISE ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR. ACCORDINGLY, THEY HOPED AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO MILITARY NEED FOR REACHING LIVABLE ACCORD WITH LABOR MOVEMENT.

5. SOURCE ENDED CONVERSATION BY COMMENTING THAT HE WOULD

LIKE TO ACCEPT AMBASSADOR'S STANDING INVITATION, MADE DURING  
PREVIOUS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIM.  
HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE TIMING WAS STILL NOT APPROPRIATE.

6. COMMENT: INFORMATION AS PROVIDED IS BELIEVED TO BE  
ACCURATE SUMMATION OF POSITION OF IMPORTANT LABOR OFFICIALS.  
OBVIOUSLY EXCLUDED FROM GROUP ARE LORENZO MIGUEL AND THOSE  
WHO STILL MAINTAIN UNQUESTIONED ALLEGIANCE TO MRS. PERON.  
HILL

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